

Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services
Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA)¹
2006 SAPTA Prevention Strategic Plan Summary
January 2007

The purpose of the substance abuse prevention strategic plan is to guide the State of Nevada, through the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA), in implementing a systematic approach to achieve effective substance abuse prevention results. Prevention is defined as “a proactive process of helping individuals, families, and communities to develop the resources needed to develop and maintain healthy lifestyles.”² Prevention is broad-based in the sense that it is intended to alleviate a wide range of at-risk behaviors including alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse, crime and delinquency, violence, vandalism, mental health problems, family conflict, parenting problems, stress and burnout, child abuse, learning problems, school failure, school drop-outs, teenage pregnancy, depression, and suicide.

The substance abuse strategic plan for prevention in Nevada is organized according to the five steps of SAMHSA’s Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF). The five steps of the SPF are assessment, capacity, planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Recommendations from SAPTA 2007 Substance Abuse Prevention Strategic Plan

1. SAPTA activities and decisions are guided by data that indicate the health status and well-being of Nevada’s diverse communities.
2. Develop and maintain a repository of data published by SAPTA, as part of the agency website that is accessible to stakeholders and agencies.
3. Nevada’s diverse communities demonstrate expanding capacity to successfully address identified prevention needs.
4. Develop a strong prevention workforce by supporting access to professional skill development, other higher education credentials, and career-sustaining salaries and benefits for prevention professionals.
5. Increase the diversity and participation of target groups in prevention planning, selection of services, and programming decisions.
6. Create protocols for working with diverse communities, including tribal nations, to establish consistent outcome-based prevention services across the continuum in Nevada.
7. Encourage participation in the planning and implementation of services statewide by a comprehensive group of stakeholders, including but not limited to target populations, schools, youth, law enforcement, businesses, faith communities, and state, federal, and community agencies.

¹ The Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services (MHDS), Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA), was previously known as the Health Division, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse (BADA).

² International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium; IC&RC.

8. Develop a single comprehensive statewide prevention strategic plan that encompasses all SAPTA and local prevention plans, to guide all substance abuse prevention efforts in Nevada's diverse communities.
9. Nevada's diverse communities will implement evidence-based prevention programs, policies, practices, and strategies to prevent and reduce substance abuse and its negative consequences for youth, adults, families, and communities.
10. Improve prevention activities in Nevada and its communities through the use of and response to research and evaluation activities.
11. Collaborate with coalitions to create a planning document based on data that will allow primary prevention providers to select programs based on needs that have been identified through the assessment process.

Highlights from SAPTA 2007 Substance Abuse Prevention Strategic Plan

- Through the guidance and active participation of the epidemiological workgroup, develop and maintain an epidemiological profile and/or needs assessment that identifies the state's priorities for substance abuse prevention.
 - ◆ The following will be included in the epidemiological process:
 - Comprehensive county profiles representative of all available data related to substance use behaviors
 - Epidemiological factors including incidence, prevalence, severity, magnitude, trend, comparison with national rates, etc.
 - Consumption and consequence data
 - Risk and protective data
- Develop a common understanding of substance abuse prevention across all agencies that deal with prevention. Critical to this goal is developing a uniform set of data indicators across agencies and communities.
- Develop parallel logic models at both state and local levels based on a data-driven needs assessment that guides stakeholders in implementation.
- Collaborate with coalitions to create comprehensive county data reports that will allow primary prevention providers to select programs based on needs that have been identified through data.
- Reduce duplication of services and enhance the continuum of care through collaboration. Examples of SAPTA collaborations include: Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, Perinatal Substance Abuse Prevention Program, HIV Prevention Program, and Department of Child and Family Services State Incentive Grant (SIG).
- Seek expansion of funding opportunities at local and state levels. Assist community organizations with this activity.

- Encourage the creation of an integrated prevention training calendar and ensure it is marketed widely across the state and accessible to providers.
- Increase use of cross-disciplinary and collaborative working strategies to bring diverse community sectors and coalitions together to address community indicators, problems, and solutions.
- Improve the capacity to meet the prevention needs of Nevada's communities by increasing training that addresses cultural barriers for Native Americans, Latinos, rural and frontier areas, generational groups, and other diverse populations in Nevada. Incorporate input from target populations in the decision-making process.
- Increase community and state capacity to collect and utilize data in order to make data-driven decisions.
- Develop a centralized data system to collect and report on all of SAPTA's initiatives and programs across the continuum of services. Develop this system to:
 - ◆ Facilitate planning, decision-making, evaluation, measuring results and outcomes, and reporting.
 - ◆ Increase the quality and accuracy of demographic data collection and analysis.
 - ◆ Facilitate the reporting of data requirements for both state and federal reporting such as the NOMS.
 - ◆ Facilitate administrative functionality with electronic invoicing and other automated processes that will increase the efficiency of business practices.
- Ensure the unique characteristics of Nevada are considered during the planning process, including:
 - ◆ Nevada's rapidly growing, transitional, and highly mobile population.
 - ◆ Nevada is a geographically large state, with a diverse demographic and socio-economic makeup. It's urban, rural, and frontier areas have distinct needs.
- Evaluation of prevention programs, policies, practices, and strategies will be integrated into the strategic planning process and across implementation activities.
- Implement culturally appropriate and responsive evidence-based prevention services for individuals, families and communities to focus on needs identified and prioritized by state and community needs assessment and planning processes.
- Prevention programming will develop and help to sustain positive community norms, policy changes, reduction in alcohol and other drug availability, and increased enforcement at the Tribal, state, county and city level through the implementation of evidence-based environmental strategies.
- In order to strengthen resiliency in youth, reduce high-risk behaviors, and break the intergenerational cycle of alcohol and other drug dependency, prevention service providers will incorporate multiple strategies across multiple sectors.

- Develop evaluation tools and protocols to track environmental approaches including systems to measure change at the community level and changes in intervening variables.
- Evaluation results are presented in ways that are accessible, culturally relevant, and comprehensible to all stakeholders. Process and quantitative evaluation activities are culturally responsive and well-documented.

Elements of the Agency's strategy are described below:

- Provide Nevadans access to quality substance abuse prevention services.
- Provide information regarding how many participants are served as a result of Agency funding and the type of services provided.
- Develop an infrastructure to assist prevention providers in implementing effective quality and quantity of services.
- Verify that state and federal funds are being used to purchase services that achieve state and federal goals.
- Require the assessment of priority indicators and data for individual communities.
- Enhance or expand collaboration with SAPTA-funded substance abuse prevention coalitions and direct service providers.
- Require the assessment of data in identifying target populations.
- Utilize the Institute of Medicine Continuum of Care.
- Support evidence-based programs, policies, practices, and strategies. These activities must be based on research or prior program findings that demonstrate the programs will prevent or reduce substance abuse effectively.
- Increase outcome-based prevention and data-driven decisions.

This plan differs from the previous five-year plan in structure and development. The SPF provides a new structure for prevention, encouraging a systematic and data-driven approach at both the state and community levels. The new plan also differs from the previous plan in its development. The previous five-year plan of 2001 was developed by SAPTA (then the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse) and its advisory board, in collaboration with an outside consultant. The new plan was developed by a subcommittee of the SAPTA Advisory Board with SAPTA staff assistance. The subcommittee of the SAPTA Advisory Board consisted of a wide range of community service providers with representation from diverse regions of the state.